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RECORDING LIQUID

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Claim

A type of recording liquid characterized by the fact that chelating is performed in a water-base liquid medium in the presence of a dispersing agent to synthesize a chelate pigment so that fine particles of the aforementioned pigment are dispersed in the aforementioned liquid meium.

Detailed explanation of the invention

This invention pertains to a type of recording liquid using a finely dispersed chelate pigment as the coloring agent. In particular, this invention pertains to a type-of recording liquid appropriate for inkjet recording method.

In the prior art, the recording liquids, that is, inks, used in felt pens, fountain pens, and other handwriting tools, are prepared by dissolving or dispersing various dyes and pigments in a liquid medium made of water or other organic solvent. It is well known that the aforementioned composition is used in the so-called inkjet recording method, in which the liquid in a recording head is ejected from an ejection orifice to make a recording by means of the vibration of a peizoelectric vibrator, the electrostatic attraction of a high voltage applied, or thermal energy. For example, various inks prepared by dissolving or dispersing different types of dyes and pigments in water-base solvents or nonwater-base solvents have been disclosed in Japanese Kokai Patent Application Nos. Sho 50[1975]-91427, Sho 51[1976]-90624, Japanese Kokoku Patent Nos. Sho 51[1976]-40484, Sho 52[1977]-13126; Sho 52[1977]-13127, and Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 50[1975]-95008. The following are the conditions required for both the recording liquids for pens and the recording liquids for inkjet recorders.

- (1) There should be no clogging at the pen tip or the tip of the orifice due to drying.
- (2) Fixing on the recording materials (paper, cloth, film, etc.), should be fast and with little blotting.
- (3) The recorded image should have a vivid hue and a high density.
- (4) The recorded image should have high water resistance and lightfastness.
- (5) The recording liquid should not corrode the peripheral materials (container, seal; etc.).

(6) The recording liquid should have a high safety with respect to odor, toxicity, ignition, etc.

For the recording liquid for inkjet recorders, it also should have appropriate liquid properties (viscosity, surface tension, electroconductivity, etc.), matched with the ejecting conditions (driving voltage, driving frequency, shape and material of ejection orifice, diameter of orifice, etc.), and should have long-term ejecting stability.

However, it is rather hard to meet all of the above requirements at the same time, and, at this point, the aforementioned conventional technologies are not satisfactory. The dyes and pigments for use in preparing the recording liquids include those disclosed in Japanese Kokoku Patent Application No. Sho 52[1977]-13126, Japanese Kokai Patent Application Nos. Sho 49[1974]-89534, Sho 50[1975]-95008, Sho 53[1976]-77706, and Sho 51[1976]-90624. Usually, for the recording liquids prepared from direct dyes, acidic dyes, basic dyes, and other dyes, there are problems with respect to water resistance and lightfastness of the recorded images. On the other hand, for the recording liquids prepared from pigments, the dispersion stability is poor, and clogging may take place easily.

The purpose of this invention is to solve the aforementioned problems of the conventional technology by providing a type of recording liquid characterized by the fact that it can meet the demands on ejection stability, long-term storage stability, fixing property, as well as density, vividness, water resistance and lightfastness of the images recorded, at the same time, and it also has excellent safety with respect to odor, toxicity,

ignition, etc., so that it is excellent for practical applications.

That is, this invention provides a type of recording liquid characterized by the fact that chelating is performed in a water-base liquid medium in the presence of a dispersing agent to synthesize a chelate pigment so that the fine particles of the aforementioned pigment are dispersed in the aforementioned liquid medium.

That is, this invention provides a type of recording liquid which gives full display to the excellent water resistance and lightfastness of the chelate pigment, improves the dispersing stability, which used to be a disadvantage of the conventional pigment-based recording liquids, can be manufactured in a simple method, and has a high value for practical applications. The recording liquid of this invention is characterized by the fact that a chelate pigment with little solubility is synthesized in a liquid medium containing a dispersing agent, followed by removal of the inorganic salts or other impurities by means of centrifugal isolation method, ultrafiltration method, or reverse osmosis method forming the recording liquid.

Consequently, compared with the conventional case in which an existing pigment is crushed and blended with a dispersing agent and a liquid medium by a ball mill, sand mill, roller mill or other dispersing machine to form the recording liquid, the recording liquid of this invention can realize dispersion of the pigment much finer and much more stable. The orifice diameter of the recording liquid ejecting opening of the pens and inkjet recorders is in the range of tens to hundreds \upsum. On the other hand, for the recording liquid prepared by dispersing a pigment together with a dispersing agent and a liquid medium in a ball

mill or other dispersing machine, the size of the obtained pigment particles is on the order of hundreds of mum, and there are often larger particles with sizes in the range of a few μm to tens of μm , causing clogging of the ejecting opening of the ink. Even when the larger particles are removed after the ink is manufactured by means of centrifugal isolation, filtration, or other method, because the dispersion state is unstable, particles will again aggregate to form larger particles that precipitate when the ink stands still.

According to this invention, the pigment particles have sizes in the range of 1-100 mim, and no reaggregation takes place during long-term storage. Also, in this invention, in order to further improve the stability in long-term storage, it is preferred that the unreacted intermediates and the inorganic salts formed during the pigment synthesis process be removed by means of an ultrafiltration method, a conventionally adopted

According to this invention, the pigment contained in the recording liquid is synthesized by chelating in a liquid medium in the presence of a dispersing agent. According to this invention, it is preferred that the chelate pigment have little solubility in the liquid medium from the viewpoint of improvement of the water resistance and lightfastness of the recorded images.

Examples of the first component for forming the aforementioned chelate pigment include tannic acid, gallic acid, catechol, pyrogallol, vivicdin [transliteration], oxine, dimethyl glyoxime, bezoinoxime, oxydiphenylamine, aniline sulfate, alizarin, quinalizarin, etc. Examples of other components include metal salts, such as halides, sulfates, nitrates, and acetates of iron, copper, nickel, chromium, cobalt, magnesium, vanadium,

57%

zinc, etc., as well as ammonium metavanadate, etc. When the recording liquid of this invention is prepared, first of all, a 7 prescribed amount of the aforementioned first chelating component is added into a water-base solvent containing a dispersing agent, followed by blending well and dissolution. Then, an aqueous solution of the aforementioned metal salt is added slowly into the obtained solution, and is crushed and blended with the solution. Subsequently, the mixture was processed by a centrifugal isolator, etc., to remove the larger particles that failed to disperse stably in the solvent. In this way, a recording liquid is formed.

In the recording liquid of this invention, the content of the pigment formed by chelating is preferably in the range of

The dispersing agents that can be used in this invention include the conventional anionic, nonionic, cationic, and amphoteric surfactants. In particular, the polymeric dispersing agents having molecular weight in the range of 500-100,000 are preferred. Examples of the preferable polymeric dispersing agents with molecular weight within the aforementioned range include polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl pyridine, polyacrylate, polymethacrylate, condensed naphthalene sulfonate, olefin-maleic anhydride copolymers (with olefins including ethylene, styrene, isobutylene, diisobutylene, α -olefin, vinyl ether, etc.), and their derivatives (maleates or amides), polyoxyethylene, polyoxypropylene, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block polymer, styrene-(meth)acrylic acid (or salt) copolymer, (meth)acrylic ester-(meth)acrylic acid (or salt) copolymer, styrene-itaconic acid (or salt) copolymer,

vinyl naphthalene-maleic anhydride (or salt) copolymer, vinylnaphthalene-(meth)acrylic acid copolymer, 8 vinylnaphthalene-itaconic acid (or salt) copolymer, etc. The polymeric dispersing agents prepared by further copolymerizing the aforementioned polymers with acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, (meth)acrylamide, N-methylol (meth)acrylamide, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, or other monomers can be used preferably. The aforementioned polymeric dispersing agents may be prepared by radical polymerization or other conventional polymerization method. The commercially available dispersing agents of the aforementioned types may be used in this invention. Examples of the commercially available dispersing agents that can be used include naphthalenesulfonic acid formalin condensate Demol NL (product of Kao Atlas Co., Ltd.); polycarbonate compound Polystar-OM (product of Nippon Yushi K.K.); polyoxyethylene nonyl phenol ether Emulgen (product of Kao Atlas Co., Ltd.) and Nonion NS-230 (product of Nippon Yushi K.K.); polyoxyethylene octadecylamine Naimin [transliteration] S-215 (product of Nippon

The amount of the dispersing agent used in this invention with respect to the pigment is preferably in the range of 1-500 wt%, or more preferably in the range of 5-300 wt%.

The preferable liquid medium for this invention is water or water-base solvent prepared by blending water and a water-miscible organic solvent. Examples of the water-miscible organic solvents that can be used preferably include methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, propyl alcohol, diacetone alcohol, furfuryl alcohol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, triethylene glycol, glycerin, tetraethylene glycol, ethylene glycol,

monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, methylcarbitol, ethylcarbitol, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, methylcarbitol acetate, ethylcarbitol acetate, diacetone alcohol, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, formamide, acetamide, dimethylacetamide, etc.

The content of the water-miscible organic solvent in the liquid medium is preferably in the range of 5-80 wt%, or more preferably in the range of 10-50 wt%. The recording liquid of this invention may contain other conventional additives, such as viscosity-adjusting agents, surface-tension-adjusting agents, electroconductivity-adjusting agents, binder, etc.

In the following, this invention will be explained in more detail with reference to application examples. In the application examples, parts refers to parts by weight.

Application Example 1

50 parts of oxine, 100 parts of Demol NL (product of Kao Atlas Co., Ltd.), and 200 parts of diethylene glycol were dissolved in 400 parts of water. The mixture was loaded into an attritor (blender/crusher) and was crushed and blended. Subsequently, a solution prepared by dissolving 25 parts of ferric chloride and 100 parts of diethylene glycol in 225 parts of water was added a little at a time into the aforementioned attritor, followed by further crushing and blending for 2 h. The obtained dispersion was loaded in a centrifugal isolator to remove the particles that were not dispersed, forming a recording liquid.

The physical properties of the recording liquid include a concentration of the coloring agent of 7 wt%, viscosity of 4 cps, . 10 and surface tension of 40 dyne/cm. Using the obtained recording liquid and on an inkjet recorder equipped with an on-demand inkjet head (with ejection orifice diameter of 50 μm , piezoelectric vibrator driving voltage of 60 V, and frequency of 4 kHz), which makes use of a piezoelectric vibrator to eject the recording liquid, studies $T_1 - T_4$ were carried out. Excellent results were obtained for all of them.

- (T_1) Long-term storage property of recording liquid: The recording liquid was sealed in a glass container and was stored at -30°C and 60°C for 6 months, the recording liquid was then observed. No insoluble component was deposited, and there was no change in the properties and hue of the recording liquid.
- (T_2) Ejection stability: At room temperature, 5°C and 40°C, respectively, continuous ejecting was performed for 24 h. Under all of these conditions, it was found that stable high-quality recording could be realized throughout the period.
- (T_3) Ejection response property: 2-sec intermittent ejecting and ejecting after setting for 2 months were studied. It was found that in both cases, there was no clogging at the tip of the orifice, and stable and uniform recording operation could be carried out.
- (T_4) Quality of recorded image: The recorded image was found to have a high density and was vivid. Also, after exposing to indoor light for 6 months, the increase in the density is less than 1%. Also, even after the image was dipped in water for 1 min, no blotting of the image was observed.

The same items were studied as in Application Example 1 by using the recording liquid in Application Example 1 on an inkjet recorder equipped with on-demand multiheads that generate ink droplets record upon application of thermal energy on the recording liquid inside the recording head (ejection orifice diameter 35 $\mu m_{\rm r}$ resistance of the heating resistor of 150 $\Omega_{\rm r}$ driving voltage of 30 V, and frequency of 2 kHz). It was found that the results were excellent for all of the items.

Application Example 3

Tannic acid: 5 parts Glycerin: 15 parts

Polystar-OM (product of Nippon Yushi K.K.): 15 parts Water: 25 parts

The above composition was loaded in an attritor for crushing and blending. Then, a solution prepared by dissolving 5 parts of ammon[ium] metavanadate and 10 parts of glycerin in 25 parts of water was added a little at a time into the aforementioned attritor, followed by further crushing and blending for 2 h. The obtained dispersion was loaded in a centrifugal isolator to remove the particles that were not dispersed, forming a recording liquid. The physical properties of the recording liquid include a concentration of the coloring agent of 10 wt%, viscosity of 5 cps, and surface tension of 42 dyne/cm. Using the obtained recording liquid and on the same device as in Application

Example 1, tests were carried out. Excellent results were

Application Example 4

For each of the recording liquids prepared in Application Examples 1-3, the following test was performed: The recording liquid was filled in a felt pen, and the cap was then applied. After setting for 1 week, the felt pen was used for handwriting. It was found that smooth writing was realized for all of them [samples of handwriting], and the water resistance and lightfastness were excellent for all of the recorded images.

As explained in the above, the recording liquid of this invention has the following advantages:

- (1) The recording liquid has good long-term storage stability, and clogging of pen tips and orifices hardly takes Place.
- (2) The allowance is wide for stable ejection in case of variation in temperature and other driving conditions.
- (3) The recording liquid can fix fast on the recording material, and the image is vivid.
- (4) The printed image has excellent water resistance and lightfastness.
- (5) The recording liquid has a high level of safety, and does not corrode the peripheral materials (container and sealing material).

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図記録液

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明細書

1. 発明の名称

記 録 液

2. 特許請求の範囲

分散剤の存在する水性液媒体中でキレート化 ・ を為してキレート顔料を合成することにより、 前 配液媒体中に前配顔料の微粒子を分散せしめ て成ることを特徴とする記録液。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

本発明は微細に分散されたキレート顔料を色剤とする記録液に関し、特には、インクジェット記録方式に適した記録液に関する。

ジェット記録方式に於いても上記の様な組成物が使用されることが知られている。例えば特開昭 50 ~ 91427号、特開昭 51~90624 号、特公昭 51~40484 号、特公昭 52~13126 号、特公昭 52~13127 号、特開昭 50~95008 号に示される様に各種染料顔料を水系または非水系溶媒に溶解或いは分散させたものが知られている。文具用、インクジェット用記録液に共通した好ましい条件としては、

- (i) ペン先またはオリフィス先端での乾燥による目詰りを起さないこと
- (2) 被配録部材(紙、布、フィルム等)に対して定着が速くにじみの少ないこと、
- (3) 記録画像の色調が鮮明で優度が高いこと、
- (4) 記録画像の耐水性、耐光性が優れていると
- (5) 配録液の周辺材料(容器、シール等)を侵さないこと、
- (6) 臭気、毒性、引火性等の安全性の優れたものであること、

等が挙げられる。更にインクジェット用配録液としては、この他に吐出条件(駆動電圧、駆動周波数、吐出オリフィスの形状と材質、オリフィス径等)にマッチした液物性(粘度、装面强力、電導度等)を有しており長期的な吐出安定性を有することが要求される。

本発明は、前述従来例の欠点を除き、吐出安定性、長期保存安定性、定着性、画像の濃度、 鮮明度、耐水性、耐光性を同時に満足し、更に

本発明によれば類料粒子径は1~100ミリミクロンの範囲であり長期保存しても再級集存起こすことがない。尚、本発明では、長期保存による安定性を一層高めるためには、一般に使用されている限外沪過法により類料合成時に生成する末反応中間体や無機塩類を除去することが望ましい。

は臭気、毒性、引火性等の安全性に優れた実用 性の高い記録液を提供せんとするものである。

そして、斯かる本発明の記録液は、分散剤の存在する水性液媒体中でキレート化を為してキレート頗料を合成することにより、前記液媒体中に前配類料の微粒子を分散せしめて成ることを特徴とする。

従って、従来技術の様に既存の類料を分散剤や液媒体と共にボールミル、サンドミル、ロールミル等の分散母器で単に混合厚砕して記録液を製造する場合と較べて、はるかに微細で安定

本発明記録液中に含有される顔料は、キレート化によって分散剤の存在する液媒体中に於て合成されるものである。そして、このキレート頗料としては、とりわけ、記録画像の耐水性及び耐光性を向上させる目的上、液媒体に難溶性のものが本発明には好適である。

れた容液中に前配金属塩の水容液を徐々に添加 しつつ摩砕混合を行なう。次いで、これを遠心 分離機等にかけて、容媒中に安定に分散してい ない相大粒子等を除去した後、記録液とする。

斯かる記録液に於いて、キレート化による顔料の好ましい含有量は 1 ~ 3 0 重量パーセントである。

ルマリン縮合物であるデモールNL(花王アトラス社製): ポリカルボン酸型化合物であるボリスター OM(日本油脂社製): ポリオエテルであるエマルゲン 950(在王アトラス社製)、及びノニオンNS-230(日本油脂社製); ポリオキシエチレンオクタデシルアミンであるナイミーンS-215(日本油脂社製)等がある。

本発明に使用される分散剤の好ましい添加量は 飯料分に対して 1 ~ 5 0 0 重量パーセントであり、より好適には 5 ~ 3 0 0 重量パーセントである。

またはアミド等)、ポリオキシエチレン、ポリ オキシブロピレン、ポリオキシエチレンーポリ オキンプロピレンプロックポリマー、スチレン - (メタ)アクリル酸(塩)共貫合体、(メタ) アクリル酸エステルー(メタ)アクリル酸 (塩)共貮合体、スチレン~イタコン酸(塩) 共貢合体、イタコン酸エステルーイタコン酸 (塩)共貮合体、ピニルナフタレン-無水マレ イン酸(塩)共重合体、ビニルナフタレンー (メタ)アクリル酸共重合体、ビニルナフタレ ン-イタコン酸(塩)共真合体等である。尚、 上記の重合体に更に例えばアクリロニトリル、 酢酸ピニル、(メタ)アクリルアミド、N-メ チロール(メタ)アクリルアミド、塩化ビニル、 塩化ビニリデン、等のモノマーが共貢合されて いる高分子分散剤も好適に使用できる。これら の高分子分散剤はラジカル重合等公知の重合方 法により合成される。又、本発明では、この分 散剤として市販品を用いても良い。市販されて いる分散剤としては、ナフタレンスルホン酸ホ

これらの水混和性有機溶剤の好ましい含有量は液媒体中5~80 重量パーセントであり、更に好適には10~50重量パーセントである。 尚、本発明の配録液にはこの他に従来公知の粘 度調整剤、表面張力調整剤、電導度調整剤、バインダー等を添加することが出来る。

本発明を以下の実施例で更に詳細に説明する。 教 尚、実施例中の部堂は重量部数である。

この記録液の物性は、着色剤濃度約7重量多、 粘度 4 cps 、 表面張力 4 0 dyne/cm であった。 この記録液を用いてピェン振動子によって記録液を吐出させるオンデマンド型インクジェントの 次を吐出させるオンデマンド型インクジェン振動 へっド(吐出オリフィス径 5 0 μ・ピェン振動 子駆動電圧 6 0 V 、 周波数 4 KHz)を有すの検討 ンクジェット記録 装置により、 T₁ ~ T4 の検行 を行なったところ、いずれも良好な結果を持ラス (T₁) 記録液の長期保存性;記録液をガラス

ッド(吐出オリフィス径35μ、発熱抵抗体抵抗値150Ω、駆動電圧30 V、周波数2 KHz) を有するインクジェット記録装置を用いて実施例1と同様の検討を行なったが、何れに於ても 優れた結果を得た。

実施例3

容器に密閉し、一30℃と60℃で6ヵ月間保存したのちでも不溶分の折出は認められず、液の物性や色調も変化がなかった。

(T2)吐出安定性:室温、5 ℃、4 0 ℃の雰囲気中でそれぞれ 2 4 時間の連続吐出を行なったが、いずれの条件でも終始安定した高品質の記録が行なえた。

(T3)吐出応答性: 2 秒毎の間歇吐出と 2 ヵ月間放置後の吐出について調べたが、いずれの場合もオリフィス先端での目詰りがなく安定で均一に記録された。

(T4)配録画像の品質:配録された画像はみ 度が高く鮮明であった。又、室内光に6ヵ月さ らしたのちの優度の低下率は1 多以下であり、 また、水中に1分間浸した場合、画像のにじみ は全く見られなかった。

実施例 2

実施例1の配録液を用いて、記録へッド内の 記録液に熱エネルギーを与えて液滴を発生させ 記録を行なうオンデイマンドタイプのマルチへ

いずれに於ても優れた結果が得られた。 実施例 4

実施例1及び3で得られた各記録液を個別にフェルトペンに充塡しキャップをとって1週間放置後に鉴記したところ、いずれもスムーズに 鉴記ができ、記録画像の耐水性、耐光性はきわめて使れていた。

以上説明した様に本発明の記録液には、

- (1) 液の長期保存安定性が良好で、ペン先やオリフィスの目詰りを起しにくい。
- (2) 温度や駆動条件の変動に対して、安定吐出のアロークンスが広い。
- (3) 被記録部材への定着が速く、画像は鮮明である。
- (4) 印字物の耐水性、耐光性が極めて良好である。
- (5) 記録液の安全性が高く、周辺材料(容器、 シール材料)を侵さない。 等の利点がある。